

**HARDING TOWNSHIP
HARDING OPEN SPACE TRUST (HOST)
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
Wednesday, February 13, 2019
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

OPEN MEETING:

Mr. Pfeiffer called the regular meeting of the Harding Open Space Trust Committee to order at 7:35 p.m., and announced the meeting was called in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

HOST Attendance: Ms. Devine, Mr. Dietz, Mr. Jones, Mr. Novotny, Mr. Pfeiffer, Mrs. Riley, Mr. Sovolos, Mrs. Somers, and Mr. Wepler

Excused Absence: Mr. Platt

Township Attendance: Mrs. Sharp, Secretary

Members of the Public: 3

MINUTES OF JANUARY 9, 2019:

Mr. Pfeiffer asked if there were any comments or changes with regards to the January 9, 2019 reorganization meeting minutes. Upon a motion made by Mr. Wepler, seconded by Mr. Jones, and with a votes of all ayes, none opposed, the HOST reorganization meeting minutes for January 9, 2019, were accepted.

HOST UPDATES:

1. HOST welcomed Mr. Solovos as a new member to HOST. Mr. Solovos introduced himself and provided a brief introduction about himself and his family.
2. Mr. Pfeiffer read a brief statement informing HOST that Mr. MacCowatt has resigned from HOST as of January 18, 2019.
3. *Margetts Field* – Mr. & Mrs. Brad Johnston of Circle Holly Farms were in attendance to provide an update on Margetts Field to all HOST members. Mr. Johnston presented a 2019 proposal for the maintenance of Margetts Field and informed HOST that there are three trouble spots where the herbicide is not controlling the weeds. Mr. Johnston stated that he would be using Cimarron Plus to control these weeds. Mr. Johnston explained he will monitor the PH, take care of the lime, but the biggest cost is the fertilizer. This is the only expense that Mr. Johnston is recommending to the Township for 2019. A discussion ensued.

Mrs. Riley asked if there was a possibility of not using herbicide in the future. Mr. Johnston responded with yes and stated that the lower field is already not requiring herbicide. A question was asked if there was a way to naturally fertilize the field. Mr. Johnston responded yes but manure is not effective. A question was asked if signage could be placed when the herbicide is placed on the field. Mr. Johnston stated he would look into this. Margetts Field should be maintained as a hayfield with minimal costs (no more than two mowing's per year). Mr. Pfeiffer asked if Mr. Johnson was interested in a year by year plan or something longer. Mr. Johnston explained that the year by year plan is good.

HOST thanked Mr. & Mrs. Johnston for attending the HOST meeting and providing an update on Margetts Field. *Let the record show that Mr. & Mrs. Johnston left the meeting at 8:15 p.m.*

HOST accepted the proposal prepared by Circle Holly Farms for 2019 for fertilizer in the amount of \$2,860.00. Mrs. Sharp will inform Mr. Johnston and the Township Administrator.

OTHER MATTERS THAT MAY COME BEFORE HOST AND HEARING PERSONS PRESENT:

No other matters or hearing persons present.

ADJOURNMENT – Mr. Pfeiffer

Having no further business to conduct, Mr. Pfeiffer adjourned the public meeting. The Harding Open Space Trust Committee convened into Executive Session at 8:15 p.m. to discuss stewardship of Open Space Properties.

A motion to return to open session at 9:10 p.m. was made by Mr. Jones and seconded by Mr. Wepler. A motion was made by Mr. Jones to recommend to the Township Committee that HOST is in support of the Harding Land Trust Gatehouse Stewardship Project Proposal, seconded by Mr. Wepler, and with a vote of all ayes, none opposed, HOST is in support of the Gatehouse Stewardship Project proposal.

A motion was made by Mr. Wepler and seconded by Mr. Jones to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. The meeting was hereby adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa A. Sharp
Secretary, Harding Open Space Trust Committee